

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Bulgaria

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT

1. Prisoners' Privileges in Bulgarian
Prisons and Camps
2. The Khaskovo Prison

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Prisoners' Privileges

1. Prisoners in Bulgaria are divided into two classes, each of which has three subdivisions. The first class consists of political prisoners. Its subdivisions are:
 - a. Dangerous political prisoners: these men are allowed to receive a package of three kilograms of food, one family letter, and one visit from family members every three months; the letter and the visit may be forbidden as a punishment; it is not clear whether or not the food may also be withheld;
 - b. Prisoners condemned for sabotage or attempted escape abroad: these men are allowed a 4-kilogram food package, a letter, and a visit every two months, but the visit is usually forbidden; and
 - c. Political prisoners with minor sentences: these may receive a 5-kilogram food package, a letter, and a visit every two months.
2. Prisoners belonging to this first class are also entitled to a daily walk of 40 minutes. They receive neither clothing, mattress, nor bedding, and are isolated from other prisoners. Their punishments are more frequent and more severe than those of other prisoners and they do not have the right to work while in prison.
3. The second class of prisoners consists of those condemned under the ordinary laws (sic). The subdivision of this class to which a prisoner is assigned depends more on the prison administration, the Militia, or Party authorities than on the crime which the prisoner committed. The subdivisions of the second class are:
 - a. First subdivision: the right to receive a food package of six kilograms, a letter, and a visit once a month;

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- b. Second subdivisions: the right to receive a 4-kilogram food package, a letter, and a visit once a month; and
 - c. Third subdivision: the right to receive a 2-kilogram food package, two visits, and two letters, once a month.
4. Second class prisoners also have the right to a 1-hour daily walk. The prison administration gives them clothing, a mattress, and one or two bed coverings. Such prisoners have the right to work. Every two days spent at work count as three days of their prison sentences, and they are also paid one-fourth of the normal laborer's wages.

Prison Guards

5. Bulgarian prisons are guarded by military detachments which are relieved every 24 hours. The guards are armed with automatic rifles. A prison guard normally consists of 20 men, an officer, and at least one non-commissioned officer. The Militia in the interior of the prison constitutes a separate guard and these men carry no arms.

The Khaskovo Prison

6. The Khaskovo Prison is presently being used for the confinement of many of those who had responsible posts in the Dimitrovgrad construction projects. Among them were the following:
- a. Khristo Sokolski, from Chirpan Okoliya; he is a well-educated man whose brother died as an anti-Communist partisan; on 9 September 1944 he was freed from a life-sentence of hard labor for Communist activities, which he had received before the war; he entered the Army as a political officer and took part in the fighting against the Germans; he then became construction chief in the "Brigade for Construction of the Khaim Bogaz Road", following which he became director of the construction union, a State enterprise with large undertakings at Dimitrovgrad; at this time he had a dispute with the DS (Dŭrzhavna Sigurnost: State Security) Chief and was, as a result, framed and condemned to three years in prison, the sentence which he is now serving;
 - b. Engineer (fmu) Savov, condemned to two years in prison for sabotage; after completing his sentence in the Khaskovo Prison, he was sent to the Belene forced labor camp; and
 - c. Dimitŭr Stoyev, a "great" Communist who was responsible for the cement magazines at Dimitrovgrad; he was condemned to three years in prison but pardoned on 1 May 1952 and set free; his crime was selling 100 tons of cement on the black market.

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